# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



**NEWS RELEASE** 

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## BOARD LOOKS AT PROGRAM REVIEWS; APPROVES ARTS STANDARDS

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – An audit of Kentucky school Program Reviews showed that the audited schools overscored their programs in K-3, writing, practical living/career studies, and arts and humanities, the Kentucky Board of Education learned at its meeting today.

Earlier this year, in response to Senate Bill 1 (2009), Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) staff designed and implemented an audit process for Program Reviews at eight schools across the state. The purpose was to evaluate the consistency between school ratings, evidence provided to support the ratings, and the perceptions of students, parents and faculty. A KDE audit team looked at about a quarter of the indicators across four areas of each program review: curriculum and instruction, formative and summative assessment, professional learning, and leadership support and monitoring The team conducted an on-site visit as well interviews at the school.

The audit team disagreed with the school self-evaluation score 63 percent of the time, with every disagreement being an overscore by the school. The audit report states, "this finding indicates that schools do not understand the procedure for evaluating their programs."

One recommendation is to encourage schools to revisit the purposes of the program reviews, which include:

- improving the *quality* teaching and learning for all students in all programs
- allowing equal access to all students the skills that will assist them in being productive citizens
- allowing student demonstration of understanding beyond a paper-and-pencil test
- ensuring a *school-wide natural integration* of the program skills across all contents, beyond the program areas

In addition, KDE program staff will provide ongoing leadership, service and support to schools in the interest of program improvement, including offering audit training to interested school/district staff so that they may use the process for internal continuous improvement.

Senate Bill 1 (2009) requires schools to self-assess programs to ensure all students have opportunity and access to high quality learning in program areas that are typically difficult to assess on the student level through traditional tests. Program Reviews combine to count as 20 percent of a school's and district's overall accountability score.

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#### Page 2 – KBE looks at program reviews; approves standards

In other business, the state board unanimously approved the second reading of 704 KAR 3:303, Kentucky Core Academic Standards (Arts).

The standards are built upon four artistic processes – creating; performing, presenting and producing; responding; and connecting – and 11 overarching anchor standards in five disciplines: dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts. The proposed arts and humanities standards include discipline-specific performance standards. The National Coalition for Core Arts Standards, led by Kentucky educator Phil Shepherd, developed the new standards and involved more than 70 writers with the input of more than 6,000 reviewers. A Kentucky-specific review of the proposed standards conducted last fall indicated that more than 90 percent of respondents agreed with the standards. The current timetable calls for the new arts standards to be fully implemented in Kentucky schools in the 2016-17 school year.

The arts standards meet the mandates set forth in Senate Bill 1 (2009) for standards that are:

- · focused on critical knowledge, skills, and capacities needed for success in the global economy;
- fewer but more in-depth to facilitate mastery learning;
- · based on evidence-based research;
- · internationally benchmarked; and
- aligned from elementary to high school to postsecondary education so that students can be successful at each education level.

Also, during its meeting, the board recognized 11 <u>Alternative Programs of Distinction</u>. An alternative education program exists to meet the needs of students that cannot be addressed in a traditional classroom setting.

During the afternoon, education strategist Monica Martinez led the board in a study session on the book, Deeper Learning, which she co-authored with sociologist Dennis McGrath. The book focuses on what is needed in public schools to transform learning so that students are equipped with the essential skills needed for success in today's world.

Tuesday evening, the Kentucky Board of Education is scheduled to host members of the West Virginia Board of Education for a joint dinner and idea exchange on issues the two boards have in common such as assessment and accountability, increasing academic achievement and the standards review process. The West Virginia board requested the meeting to learn from the Kentucky board how it has implemented strategies to effectively move student achievement forward. No action is to be taken at the dinner meeting.

The Kentucky Board of Education's meeting continues on Wednesday morning beginning at 8:30 a.m. ET in the State Board Room on the first floor of the Capital Plaza Tower in Frankfort. The agenda for the meeting follows.

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### Kentucky Board of Education Regular Meeting June 3, 2015 8:30 a.m. ET

#### State Board Room, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky

- I. Call to Order, 8:30 a.m. ET
- II. Welcome and Announcements
- III. Introduction of New KDE Employees and Team Member of the Month
- IV. Report of the Secretary of the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet
- V. Report of the President of the Council on Postsecondary Education
- VI. Report of the Executive Director of the Education Professional Standards Board
- VII. Report of the Commissioner of Education
- VIII. Public Comment Segment
- IX. Kentucky Career and Technical Education (CTE) Funding Study Report (March 2015) (Review Item)
- X. Discussion of TELL Kentucky Survey Results (Review Item)
- XI. Curriculum Committee Meeting
  - A. Action/Consent Items
    - 1. Kentucky Writing Program Advisory Committee Appointments
    - 2. Appointments to State Textbook Commission
    - 3. 2015-16 Preschool Funding Process and Funding Rates
    - 4. Certification of Non Public Schools
  - B. Action/Discussion Items
    - Waiver Request from Jefferson County Public Schools for 704 KAR 3:303, Required Core Academic Standards
    - 2. 705 KAR 4:041, Work-Based Learning Program Standards (Second Reading)
  - C. Review Items
    - 1. Non-Traditional Instructional Program Update
- XII. Board Member Sharing
- XIII. Hearing Officer's Report
  - **A.** Statement of Consideration for 704 KAR 5:020, Common Kindergarten Entry Screener (Action/Discussion Item)
  - **B.** Statement of Consideration on 704 KAR 3:370, Professional Growth and Effectiveness System (Action/Discussion Item)
  - **C.** Report on Regulations (Review Item)
- **XIV.** Information Items (Questions only)
  - A. KDE Employment Report (All offices except the Office of Career and Technical Education)
  - B. KDE Employment Report (Office of Career and Technical Education Only)
- XV. Presentation of the Joseph W. Kelly Award (11:45 a.m. ET)
- XVI. Lunch noon to 1 p.m. ET
- XVII. Strategic Plan Update (Review Item) (1 p.m. ET)
- XVIII. Kentucky's Plan to Close Achievement Gaps Through Novice Reduction (Review Item)
- **XIX.** Approval of Action/Consent Items as a block (Full Board)
- XX. Report from the Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction Committee on Action/Discussion Items
- XXI. Report from the Management Committee on Action/Discussion Items
- XXII. Internal Board Business
- XXIII. Litigation Report
- **XXIV.** Discussion of the Commissioner's Search Process with Search Firm Representatives and Consideration to Finalize the Characteristics for the Next Commissioner (Open session)
- **XXV.** Adjournment

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